

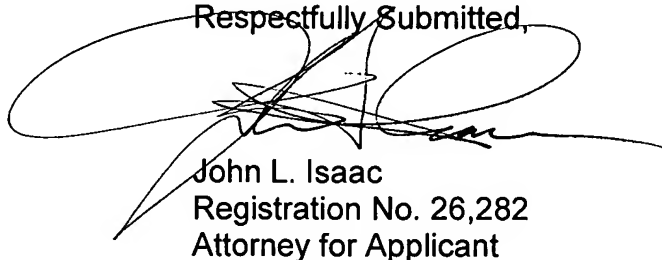
claims dependent therefrom, under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Nashino in view of Nakazawa. Applicant traverses this rejection.

The Examiner has stated that Nakazawa discloses an electric double layer capacitor comprising current collectors 6 (Fig. 1) coated by conductor rubber layers 5 on both surfaces of the collector 6 so that the conductive layer contacts to the surface of the electrodes 2 in order to reduce the ESR of the capacitor. In fact, the reference discloses a current collector 4 made up of a conductive film 6 and a copper foil 5. This is not the same as the structure claimed in the present invention nor does it render the claimed invention obvious. The reference itself states that (see Column 2, lines 55-61) each collector covering the electrodes is a lamination comprising a conductive film formed by coating a conductive resin solution containing a conductive material on at least one surface of a copper foil.

Contrary to this, the claimed invention of previously amended claims 1, 9 and 16 is specifically limited to conductive rubber layers on each side of the electrode structure covered in turn by a metallic coating which in turn is then contacted and covered by a current collector. In the reference, the resin/copper structure itself is the current collector, while the claimed invention includes the conductive rubber layer/metallic coating structure interposed between the electrodes and the current collectors to specifically reduce contact resistance.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1, 19 and 16, as previously amended, and the remaining claims dependent thereon are patentable under 35 USC 103 and over the cited references, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application and allowance thereof.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John L. Isaac', is written over the typed name and title.

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